

9.6 first-in-first-out buffer, wherein the data is held by the first-in-first-out buffer before the data is communicated to the second network data station; and

wherein the first-in-first-out buffer is configured to output its contents in response to a signal transmitted by the second network data station.

127. (amended) The method of claim 100, wherein the first-in-first-out buffer is coupled to a cascade port, wherein the cascade port is coupled between first and second isochronous hubs without using a backbone network.

139. (amended) The method of claim 131, wherein the processor receives an interrupt that indicates that a signaling channel receiver or transmitter of a physical layer device needs to be processed by the processor.

REMARKS

Claims 1-141 are in the application. Claims 1-57 were allowed. Claims 58-141 were rejected under Section 112 due to certain informalities noted by the Examiner.

Applicant has attempted herein to clarify claims 58 and 100 in an effort to address the informalities noted by the Examiner. Applicant notes that the amendment to claim 100 also clarifies the data buffering between the transmit memory and the communications medium, in accordance with the present invention. As for the amendment to claims 43, 85 and 127, Applicant has made this amendment for purposes of clarity, as the cascade port may be a part of the two (and thus coupled to "first and second isochronous hubs" seems more clear in this regard). As for the amendments to claims 55, 97 and 139, this amendment is to correct a typographical error ("need" changed to "needs").

No new matter has been added by this Amendment, and the amendments herein are submitted to the application in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Applicant's attorney requests an opportunity to discuss this case with the Examiner by way of a telephone or in-person interview in order to address any additional questions, etc., that the Examiner may have.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251 or backup deposit account 12-2175.

Respectfully submitted,

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| I hereby certify that this Amendment (<u>12</u> pages) is being sent via facsimile transmission to the USPTO, Group 2732, fax no. (703) <u>305-3988</u> , directed to Examiner Dang Ton, on the below date of transmission. | | | | |
| Date of Fax: | 5/17/00 | Name of Person Sending Fax: | Karen Rogers | Signature of the Person Transmitting Documents: |